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REMARKS

Claims 4, 5, 8, 10, 20, 21, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35-38, 45, 47, 48 and 56 have been amended to remove multiple dependency. Claims 50-52 have been cancelled. Claims 1-49 and 53-56 will be pending in the application upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

A marked-up version of the claims is attached hereto, wherein deleted matter has been bracketed and added matter is underlined.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and notice of same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 4, 5, 8, 10, 20, 21, 28, 30, 31, 33, 35-38, 45, 47, 48 and 56 have been amended as follows:

4. A locking mechanism as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which the retainer part includes a flexible leg, the first formation being located on the leg, the connector part being adapted to flex the leg, on engagement with the retainer part, to move the first formation relative to the body part.

5. A locking mechanism as claimed in claim 4 [when dependent upon claim 3] in which the first formation and second formation comprise a lug and a recess, each being formed on or in one of the retainer part and the body part, and in which the retainer part includes two of said legs, the connector part being adapted to move the legs towards one another on engagement with the retainer part.

8. A locking mechanism as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 4 [to 7] in which each leg has an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface being longer than the inner surface.

10. A locking mechanism as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which the connector part includes a bore into which at least part of the retainer part is insertable.

14. A locking mechanism as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1 in which the retainer part is adapted to retain a hypodermic needle, the retainer part including an elongate bore passing therethrough, the bore being engageable with a cylindrical outer surface of a needle.

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20. A locking mechanism as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 17 [to 19] in which each said leg includes a lug adapted for engagement with a recess formed in the body part, the movement of the connector part to engage the leg causing a reduction in the force of engagement between the lug and recess.

21. A locking mechanism as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 17 [to 20] in which the connector part includes a generally cylindrically bore, the bore being adapted to receive each said leg on engagement of the connector part therewith.

28. An assembly as claimed in claim 26 [or claim 27] in which the needle retainer has a cylindrical body and has a bore formed therealong, the bore having an entrance thereto, the needle retainer being insertable into the neck portion to a position in which the entrance to the bore is located spaced at least partly along the neck portion from the open front end thereof to the shoulder.

30. An assembly as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 28 [to 29] in which the needle retainer and neck portion are circularly cylindrical, and in which an outer diameter of the needle retainer is substantially equal to an inner diameter of the neck portion.

31. An assembly as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 26 [to 30] in which the fluid container is formed with an annular internal recess at the axial point at which the neck portion meets the shoulder portion thereof, and in which the needle retainer includes at least one projection adapted to engage with the recess for retaining the needle retainer in position in the fluid container.

33. An assembly as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 26 [to 32] in which a seal is provided on the needle retainer for sealing with the internal surface of the neck portion.

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35. An assembly as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 26 [to 34] in which the needle has a sharp front end, and a rear end, the rear end being adjacent a rear end of a cylindrical body of the needle retainer.

36. An assembly as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 26 [to 35] which includes means for forcing fluid out of the container and along the needle.

37. A medical device including a needle assembly as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 16 [to 36].

38. A medical device including a locking mechanism as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 25].

45. A medical device as claimed in claim 42 [or 43 or 44] in which the syringe includes a barrel, a conical shoulder portion at a forward end of a main cylindrical part of the barrel and a neck portion in front of the shoulder portion, the said second formation of the locking mechanism being formed internally in the neck portion.

47. A medical device as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 38 [to 45] in which the retainer part is removably mounted on the body part of the device.

48. A medical device as claimed in claim 47 [when dependent upon claim 25] in which the retainer part is removably mounted on the body part of the device, and which includes a hub part for releasably sealably retaining the retainer part on the barrel of the syringe.

56. A device as claimed in [any one of] claim[s] 53 [to 55] in which the plunger has a stem with an X-shaped section and the barrel is formed with a groove allowing axial movement but preventing rotation of the plunger stem.